

Application No. 09/873,413
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated November 22, 2004
Response to the Office Action of August 26, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3 - 12 are now pending in the present application, claim 2 having been cancelled and new claims 5 - 12 having been added by the present Amendment. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Inoue et al.** (USP 6,226,449). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection, to the extent it is considered to apply to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

According to amended claim 1, a recording medium is formed with a plurality of folders. A plurality of files are managed by the plurality of folders. When the recording medium is attached to an attacher, a folder number detector detects folder identification numbers of the plurality of folders formed in the recording medium. The detected folder identification numbers are displayed on a screen by a folder number displayer. When any one of the displayed folder identification numbers is selected by a selector, the number of files managed by the folder holding the selected folder identification number is detected by a file number detector. The number of files detected is displayed by a file number displayer. Accordingly, a screen on which the number of files is displayed is same as the screen on which the folder identification numbers are displayed by the folder number displayer.

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Displaying the folder identification numbers and the number of files managed by a designated folder on the same screen makes it possible to quickly recognize how many files are managed by the designated folder.

In contrast, **Inoue et al.** disclose displaying on a screen a plurality of folder identification numbers and the number of files managed by each of a plurality of folders. However, according to Figure 6 of **Inoue et al.**, the screen is simultaneously displayed with a plurality of numbers of files respectively corresponding to the plurality of folders. This makes a display process complicated, and such a complicated display process takes a long time for displaying information. Moreover, a large amount of displayed information prevents an operator from quickly understanding contents of the displayed information.

Furthermore, according to Figures 6 and 7 of **Inoue et al.**, the number of files managed by a selected folder is displayed on a screen which is different from the screen on which the plurality of numbers of files are displayed. That is, an updating operation of a screen is required for displaying a single number of files, and this causes a deterioration of operability.

It is respectfully submitted that **Inoue et al.** fail to disclose or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1, in which the folder identification numbers and the number of files managed by a designated folder are displayed on the same screen.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and claims 3 – 9 which depend therefrom, are not anticipated by **Inoue et al.** Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 are respectfully requested.

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New Claims 10 - 12

New independent claims 10 – 12 have been added.

New claim 10 recites a folder creator for creating a new folder in the recording medium. Support for new claim 10 is provided in the present application, e.g., Fig. 5, steps S43-S65 and accompanying description, which describes a recording folder generation mode in which a new recording folder is generated.

In contrast, **Inoue et al.** is silent about creating a new recording folder. **Inoue et al.** teaches that the number of folders is *fixed* and the number of data items (files) in the folders can be increased (col. 8, line 65 - col. 9, line 2). Further, **Inoue et al.** teach that classification is changes cyclically between folders, but does not suggest that a new folder can be created (see, e.g., col. 11, lines 5-7).

New claim 11 recites creating a new folder when writing of a file to a designated folder is instructed in a state the number of files managed by the designated folder is predetermined value. Support for new claim 11 is provided, e.g., in Figure 7, which illustrates that during the picture taking mode, if the maximum file number is exceeded (step S97), then a new folder is generated and a new file no. created (Step S101 and present application, page 15, lines 5-11).

In contrast, the **Inoue et al.** reference is silent regarding creating a new folder if the maximum file no. is exceeded.

New claim 12 recites a file mover for moving a file to another folder, wherein the folder to which the file is moved is arbitrarily selectable. Support for new claim 12 is provided, e.g., in Fig. 14 of present application and corresponding description, which describes that the movement

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of an image file from one folder to another is capable of being performed in both a forward (i.e., higher folder no.) or a backward (i.e., lower folder no.) direction.

In contrast, according to **Inoue et al.**, a new folder is apparently only selected cyclically and not in a forward and backward direction (see col. 11, lines 5-7).

Accordingly, each of claims 10 – 12 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art. An indication of allowability of claims 10 – 12 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

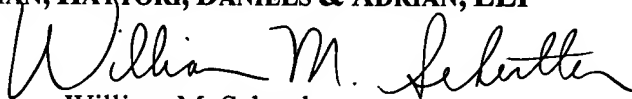
In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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